

PROCEEDINGS  
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TECHNICAL NAMES OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN  
MARSH DEER AND PAMPAS DEER

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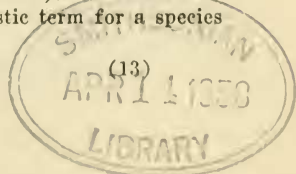
The generic name *Edocerus*, with type *Cervus dichotomus* Illiger, was proposed by Avila-Pires (1957) for the South American marsh deer currently known as *Blastocerus*. According to Avila-Pires the name *Blastocerus* is based on the pampas deer and should, therefore, displace *Ozotoceros* Ameghino. The arguments raised for the nomenclatural changes do not take into account all the known facts.

Ameghino (1891:243) proposed *Ozotoceros*, with type the pampas deer (*Ozotoceros campestris* authors, not Cuvier = *bezoarticus* Linnaeus), to replace "*Blastoceros* [*sic* = *Blastocerus*, not *Blastoceros* Fitzinger] Gray, 1872," erroneously held to be pre-occupied by *Blastocera* Gerstaecker, 1856, a genus of Diptera. In this particular case, the designated type species of *Ozotoceros* automatically becomes the type of "*Blastocerus* Gray, 1872." Both the pampas deer and the marsh deer, *Cervus paludosus* (= *C. dichotomus*) were included in "*Blastocerus* Gray, 1872." Under no circumstances, however, can it be assumed, as Avila-Pires does, that the type of *Ozotoceros* becomes, *ipso facto*, the type of *Blastocerus* as proposed by any author prior to Gray, 1872. Indeed, *Blastocerus*, as understood and constituted by earlier authors is not the same as "*Blastocerus* Gray, 1872."

The first use of *Blastocerus* as a valid generic name dates from Gray, 1850. The type and only species of *Blastocerus* Gray, 1850, is the marsh deer, *Blastocerus paludosus* Desmarest, with the *guazu-pucu* of Azara and *Cervus dichotomus* Illiger included as absolute synonyms. Patently, *Ozotoceros* Ameghino and *Blastocerus* Gray, 1850, are not synonymous.

In erecting the genus *Blastocerus* for the marsh deer, Gray (1850:68) cited Wagner and Sundevall as authorities for the name. However, neither author employed the term in any form that could be accepted as a generic or subgeneric taxon.

Wagner's classification of deer in the fourth supplement to Schreber's "Säugethiere" published 1844, and in the fifth supplement published in 1855, leaves no room for equivocation. The deer in question are here actually contained within the genus *Cervus*, subgenus *Elaphus* (cf. 1844: ix, 339, 341, 348, 367, 368; 1855: xv-xvi, 352, 367, 368). "*Blastocerus*" is introduced by Wagner (1844: 366) as a diagnostic term for a species



group contained within the subgenus *Elaphus*. The group consists of the marsh deer (*Cervus paludosus* [= *dichotomus*]), the pampas deer (*C. campestris* [= *bezoarticus*]) and the mule deer *C. macrotis* (= *hemionus*). At the same time, Wagner (1844:384) uses the term "Furcifer" for another superspecific category of subgenus *Elaphus*. This subdivision held only the Peruvian taruga (*Cervus antisensis* I. Geoffroy and Blainville).

In 1855, Wagner (p. 346) reviewed the taxonomic literature on deer contributed since 1844. He acknowledged Gray, 1850, as author of several generic names, including *Blastocerus* and *Furcifer*. In his own classification, however, Wagner (1855:349-350) kept "Blastocerus" in its original status as a diagnostic term for a species group within the subgenus *Elaphus*. *Furcifer*, on the other hand, was removed from *Elaphus* and given equal rank as a subgenus of *Cervus* (op. cit., pp. 350, 380).

In his arrangement of the Pecora, Sundevall (1846: 182-183) used the plural form "Blastoceri" as the term for a division of *Cervus*. It contained only the marsh deer, *Cervus paludosus*. The pampas deer, *C. campestris*, was referred to the "Furciferes" division of *Cervus*.

Admission of the terms "Blastocerus" and "Furcifer" from Wagner, 1844, "Blastoceri" and "Furciferes" from Sundevall, 1846, as valid generic or subgeneric names is not in harmony with their authors' concepts of classification or with the binomial system of nomenclature. A number of other Latin terms used by Wagner in the diagnoses of special species groups have crept into the literature as generic and specific taxons. They need not be exposed at this time.

The above conclusions are in agreement with those presented by Cabrera in 1943 (pp. 14-15). Avila-Pires cites Cabrera's paper but, it appears, has grossly misrepresented its meaning. Simpson (1945: footnote 5, p. 154) likewise failed to grasp the significance of the difference between "Blastocerus" Wagner, 1844, and *Blastocerus* Gray, 1850. His suggestion that *Dorcelaphus* Gloger, 1841, an absolute synonym of *Odocoileus* Rafinesque, could be the correct name for the marsh deer, cannot be taken seriously.

Another name for marsh deer that must be reckoned with is *Bezoarticus* Marelli. The name was erected in 1931 (p. 57) as a subgenus of "Blastocerus Wagner, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1850, p. 237." Its type by monotypy is the marsh deer, *Blastocerus paludosus* Desmarest. Marelli also listed the pampas deer, *Blastocerus campestris*, with synonym *Blastocerus bezoarticus*. It would seem that Marelli might have included this tautonymic species in his *Bezoarticus* but this is not evident from the text. In any case, the pampas deer becomes, by elimination, type of the nominate form of the genus *Blastocerus* as understood by Marelli.

Turning now to the pampas deer, the earliest generic name based on it is not *Ozotoceros* Ameghino. In 1860, Fitzinger (p. 176) proposed *Blastoceros* exclusively for this animal. There is no indication in the text of his work that Fitzinger adopted the name from either Wagner, 1844, or Gray, 1850. Whether or not it should be regarded as an invalid emendation, *Blastoceros* Fitzinger as a name is valid, and no more a homonym of *Blastocerus* Gray, 1850, than is *Blastocera* Gerstaecker, 1856.

Some confusion may result from the near identity of the generic names for marsh and pampas deer. This problem may eventually be resolved within the scope of a taxonomic revision of all Neotropical

cervids. For present purely nomenclatorial purposes, however, the available names for the deer in question may be summarized as follows:

*Blastocerus* Gray (Marsh deer)

*Blastocerus* Gray, 1850, Gleanings Knowsley Menag., p. 68—type *Blastocerus paludosus* Desmarest [= *Blastocerus dichotomus* Illiger] by monotypy; generic name derived from “*Blastocerus*” Wagner, 1844 (Schreber’s Säugethiere, Suppl. 4:366), a term for a species group of subgenus *Elaphus*, genus *Cervus*. Lydekker, 1915, Deer of all lands, p. 282—name erroneously attributed to Sundevall (1846, K. Vet. Akad. Handl., 1844:182) where only the plural Latin term “*Blastoceri*” is used.

*Blastoros* Knottnerus—Meyer, 1907, Arch. Naturg., Berlin, (73), 1:19—misprint for *Blastoceros* [sic] Gray.

*Bezoarticus* Marelli, 1932, Mem. Jardin Zool. La Plata (1930-1931), 4:57—subgenus of “*Blastocerus* Wagner [Gray], Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1850, p. 237”; type by monotypy, *Blastocerus paludosus* Desmarest [= *Blastocerus dichotomus*].

*Edocerus* Avila-Pires, 1957, Bol. Mus. Nac. Rio de Janeiro, n.s., no. 153, p. 5—type *Edocerus dichotomus* Illiger, by original designation.

*Dorcelaphus* Knottnerus—Meyer (Not Gloger, 1841), 1907, Arch. Naturg., Berlin, (73), 1:19, 98—included species, *D. dichotoma* Illiger; offered as substitute for *Blastoceros* [sic] Gray, 1850.

*Blastoceros* Fitzinger (Pampas deer)

*Blastoceros* Fitzinger, 1860, Naturg. Säugeth., 3:176—type, *Blastoceros campestris* [= *Cervus bezoarticus* Linnaeus], by monotypy.

*Ozotoceros* Ameghino, 1891, Rev. Argentina Hist. Nat., 1:243—type, *Ozotoceros campestris* [not Cuvier = *Cervus bezoarticus* Linnaeus]; name proposed as a substitute for “*Blastoceros* [sic] Gray, 1872” [not *Blastocerus* Gray, 1850] erroneously regarded as preoccupied by *Blastocera* Gerstaecker, 1856, a genus of Diptera.

*Ozotoceras* [sic] Palmer, 1904, Index Gen. Mamm., N. A. Fauna no. 23:492—lapsus for *Ozotoceros* Ameghino.

*Ozelaphus* Knottnerus—Meyer, 1907, Arch. Naturg., (73), 1:19, 98, 110—included species: *azarae* Fitzinger [= *bezoarticus* Linnaeus], *bezoarticus* Linnaeus [= type, by virtual monotypy].

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